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Docket No.: 09614/000L414-US0  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Iizuka Hiroshi et al.

Application No.: 09/908,993

Confirmation No.: 6849

Filed: July 19, 2001

Art Unit: 1724

For: WATER SOFTENING DEVICE (JPA 2000-  
220874, FILED 7/21/00)

Examiner: I. C. Cintins

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION (37 C.F.R. SECTION 1.116)**

MS AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In response to the Office Action dated August 24, 2004 (Paper No. 20040822), finally rejecting claims 1-29, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 9 of this paper.